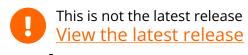


Home > Statistics > Labour > Employment and unemployment > Labour Force, Australia > October 2022



Labour Force, Australia

Headline estimates of employment, unemployment, underemployment, participation and hours worked from the monthly Labour Force Survey

Reference period October 2022

Released 17/11/2022

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Key statistics

In trend terms, in October 2022:

- unemployment rate decreased to 3.4%.
- participation rate remained at 66.6%.
- employment increased to 13,623,700.

- employment to population ratio remained at 64.3%.
- underemployment rate remained at 6.0%.
- monthly hours worked increased to 1,864 million.

In seasonally adjusted terms, in October 2022:

- unemployment rate decreased to 3.4%.
- participation rate remained at 66.5%.
- employment increased to 13,617,900.
- employment to population ratio increased to 64.3%.
- underemployment rate decreased to 5.9%.
- monthly hours worked increased to 1,897 million.

Key statistics - Trend

| | Sep-2022 | Oct-2022 | Monthly change | Monthly change (%) | Yearly change | Yearly change (%) |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| Employed people | 13,606,900 | 13,623,700 | 16,800 | 0.1% | 466,800 | 3.5% |
| Unemployed people | 486,400 | 483,800 | -2,600 | -0.5% | -153,100 | -24.0% |
| Unemployment rate | 3.5% | 3.4% | 0.0 pts | na | -1.2 pts | na |
| Underemployment rate | 6.0% | 6.0% | 0.0 pts | na | -3.3 pts | na |
| Participation rate | 66.6% | 66.6% | 0.0 pts | na | 0.8 pts | na |
| Monthly hours worked in all jobs | 1,862 million | 1,864 million | 3 million | 0.1% | 124 million | 7.1% |

Key statistics - Seasonally adjusted

| | Sep-2022 | Oct-2022 | Monthly change | Monthly change (%) | Yearly change | Yearly change (%) |
|-------------------|------------|------------|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| Employed people | 13,585,700 | 13,617,900 | 32,200 | 0.2% | 762,000 | 5.9% |
| Unemployed people | 498,100 | 477,600 | -20,600 | -4.1% | -236,200 | -33.1% |
| Unemployment rate | 3.5% | 3.4% | -0.1 pts | na | -1.9 pts | na |

| | Sep-2022 | Oct-2022 | Monthly change | Monthly change (%) | Yearly change | Yearly change (%) |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| Underemployment rate | 6.0% | 5.9% | -0.1 pts | na | -3.5 pts | na |
| Participation rate | 66.5% | 66.5% | 0.0 pts | na | 1.7 pts | na |
| Monthly hours worked in all jobs | 1,854 million | 1,897 million | 43 million | 2.3% | 167 million | 9.7% |

Estimates of changes throughout this release are calculated using un-rounded level estimates and may be different from, but are more accurate than, movements obtained from the rounded level estimates.

Survey impacts and changes

Guide to labour statistics

To learn more about our different labour measures, their purpose and how to use them, see our <u>Guide to labour statistics</u> (/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics). It provides summary information on labour market topics including <u>Industry employment data</u> (/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/industry-employment-guide).

Articles and other information

The ABS has again included more detailed information given the interest in understanding

 hours worked and comparisons with the labour market before the monthly Labour Force Survey commenced in 1978.

This detailed information can be found in:

- Insights into hours worked, October 2022 (/articles/insights-hours-workedoctober-2022)
- <u>Historical charts from 1966 to October 2022 (/articles/historical-charts-august-1966-october-2022)</u>

For a list of previously published LFS articles, see the <u>Article archive (/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia/latest-</u>

release#article-archive).

The ABS is also continuing to include data cubes EM2a and EM2b in this release. These two data cubes are usually only released in <u>Labour Force</u>, <u>Australia</u>, <u>Detailed</u> (/ statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia-detailed/ latest-release)</u>, but will continue to be released in the headline release over the coming months, to enable more detailed analysis of changes in hours worked and the reasons that people are working reduced or no hours.

Additional spreadsheets and pivot tables are published in <u>Labour Force, Australia</u>, <u>Detailed (/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia-detailed/latest-release)</u> one week after this release, while longitudinal labour force microdata are released in the ABS DataLab, on 25 November 2022 (see <u>Microdata: Longitudinal Labour Force, Australia (/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/longitudinal-labour-force-australia)).</u>

Seasonal adjustment and trend estimates

ABS suspended the publication of Labour Force Trend estimates in April 2020, due to the large changes in the labour market during the COVID-19 period, particularly during the first two years of the pandemic (April 2020 to March 2022).

As suggested in A Guide to Interpreting Time Series (https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1349.0), trend estimates are generally a better guide to the substantive movements in the series, and are considered the best indicator of the underlying behaviour in the labour market.

Given this, following extensive analysis of the time series, the ABS has now reinstated Labour Force Trend estimates and reverted back to using the concurrent seasonal adjustment method (rather than using forward factors).

The ABS has also included the trend during the COVID period in the spreadsheets in this release. However, given the large month-to-month changes during the first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in multiple trend breaks, the ABS recommends caution when using trend estimates during this period.

The ABS will continue to investigate methods for the identification of trend breaks as part of the upcoming Annual Seasonal Reanalysis in 2023. As part of this process, there may be larger than usual revisions, particularly for the first two years of the pandemic.

Major rebenchmarking of labour force estimates

In the November 2022 publication, to be released on 15 December 2022, the Labour Force population benchmarks will be updated to reflect the latest estimated resident population (ERP) based on the 2021 Census (preliminary rebased ERP).

This is a regular 5-yearly rebasing process which follows each Census, and ensures the Labour Force estimates are benchmarked to the most recent population information.

This process will result in revisions to Labour Force estimates going back to 2016. This follows a similar process to that undertaken in 2017.

Survey response and timeline

The October Labour Force Survey was run in respect of the two weeks from Sunday 2 October to Saturday 15 October, and collected over the period from Sunday 9 October to Saturday 29 October.

The ABS would like to thank Australians for their continued support in responding to our surveys, given how critically important this information is.

Reference and Enumeration Dates

| Publication | Start of Reference Week | End of Reference Week | Start of Enumeration | End of Enumeration |
|-------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Sep-22 | 4th September 2022 | 17th September 2022 | 11th September 2022 | 1st October 2022 |
| Oct-22 | 2nd October 2022 | 15th October 2022 | 9th October 2022 | 29th October 2022 |
| Nov-22 | 30th October 2022 | 12th November 2022 | 6th November 2022 | 26th November 2022 |
| Dec-22 | 27th November 2022 | 10th December 2022 | 4th December 2022 | 22nd December 2022 |
| Jan-23 | 1st January 2023 | 14th January 2023 | 8th January 2023 | 28th January 2023 |
| Feb-23 | 29th January 2023 | 11th February 2023 | 5th February 2023 | 25th February 2023 |

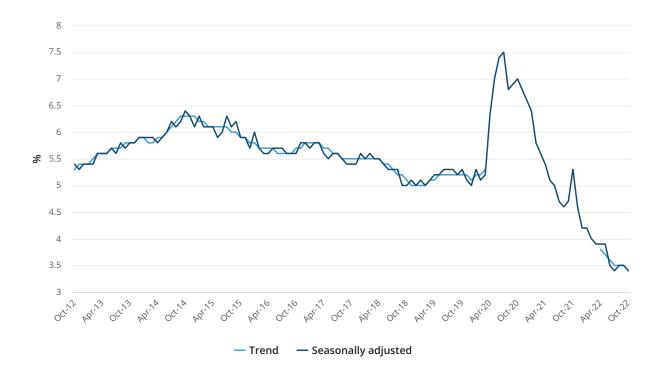
Unemployment

In trend terms, in October 2022:

• unemployment rate decreased to 3.4%.

- unemployed people decreased by 2,600 to 483,800.
- youth unemployment rate decreased to 7.5%.

Unemployment rate



Large month-to-month changes occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in multiple trend breaks. The ABS recommends caution when using trend estimates published in spreadsheets in this release for this period. Information on trend breaks can be found in <u>Labour Force, Australia methodology, October 2022 (/ methodologies/labour-force-australia-methodology/oct-2022)</u>.

Employment

In trend terms, in October 2022, employment increased by 16,800 people (0.1%) to 13,623,700 people.

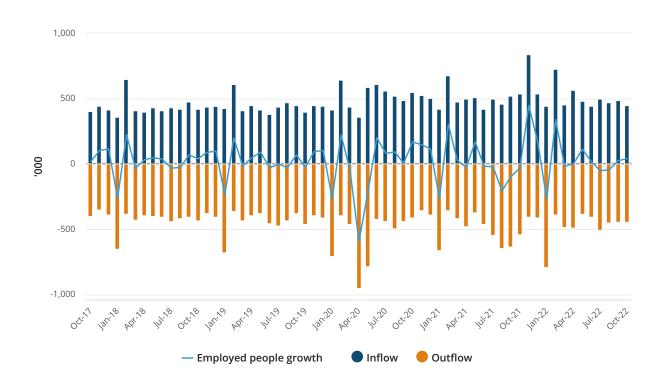
Flows into and out of employment

Flows into and out of employment are extensive and are based on the net matched sample

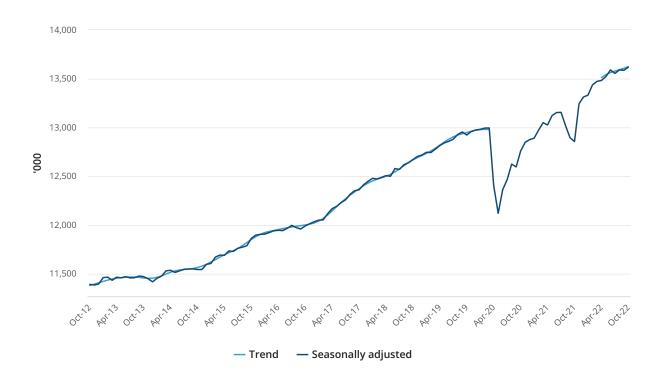
of original employment growth between two consecutive months (around 80% of the sample). The (net) sum of the inflows and outflows does not necessarily equal the 'net' employment growth.

For October 2022, the net change in the number of employed people is the result of around 449,000 people entering employment (i.e. they were not employed in September but were employed in October), while around 442,000 people left employment (i.e. they were employed in September but not employed in October). This contrasts with September 2022, where around 488,000 people entered employment and around 446,000 people left employment.

Monthly inflows, outflows and employment growth, Original



Employed people



Large month-to-month changes occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in multiple trend breaks. The ABS recommends caution when using trend estimates published in spreadsheets in this release for this period. Information on trend breaks can be found in <u>Labour Force, Australia methodology, October 2022 (/ methodologies/labour-force-australia-methodology/oct-2022)</u>.

Full-time and part-time employment

In trend terms, in October 2022:

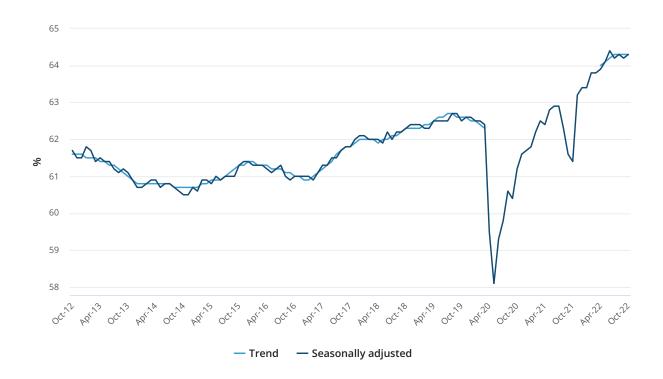
- full-time employment increased by 16,800 to 9,515,400 people, and part-time employment remained at 4,108,300 people.
- part-time share of employment was 30.2%.

Employment-to-population ratio

In trend terms, in October 2022, the employment-to-population ratio remained at 64.3%.

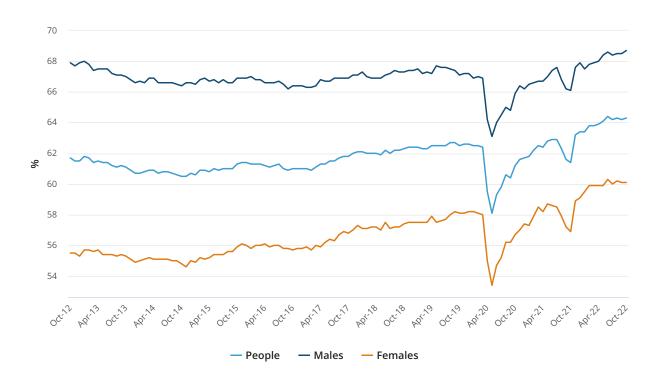
The employment-to-population ratio provides a measure of employment relative to the size of the population.

Employment-to-population ratio



Large month-to-month changes occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in multiple trend breaks. The ABS recommends caution when using trend estimates published in spreadsheets in this release for this period. Information on trend breaks can be found in <u>Labour Force, Australia methodology, October 2022 (/ methodologies/labour-force-australia-methodology/oct-2022)</u>.

Employment-to-population ratio, Seasonally adjusted

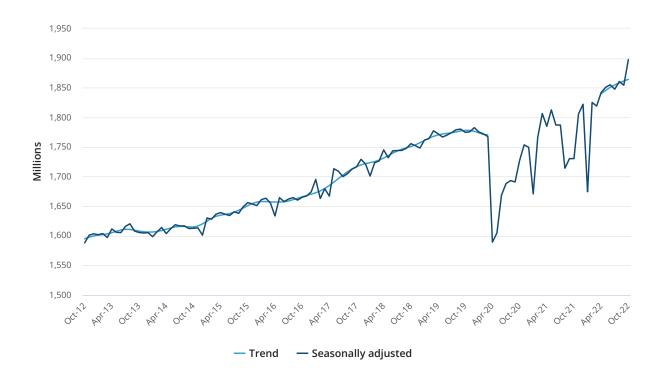


Hours worked

In trend terms, in October 2022, monthly hours worked in all jobs increased by 2.7 million hours (0.1%) to 1,864 million hours.

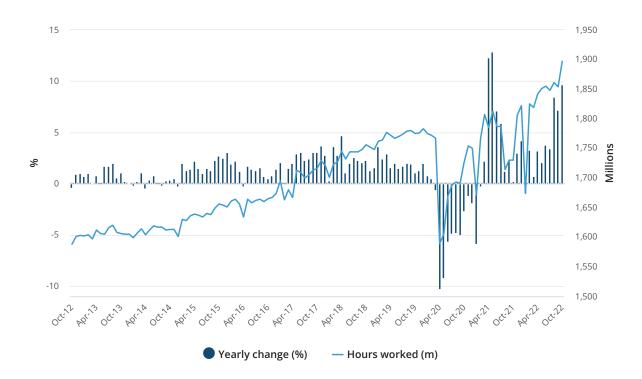
See the article <u>Insights into hours worked (/articles/insights-hours-worked-october-2022)</u> for more.

Monthly hours worked in all jobs



Large month-to-month changes occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in multiple trend breaks. The ABS recommends caution when using trend estimates published in spreadsheets in this release for this period. Information on trend breaks can be found in <u>Labour Force, Australia methodology, October 2022 (/ methodologies/labour-force-australia-methodology/oct-2022)</u>.

Monthly hours worked in all jobs, Seasonally adjusted

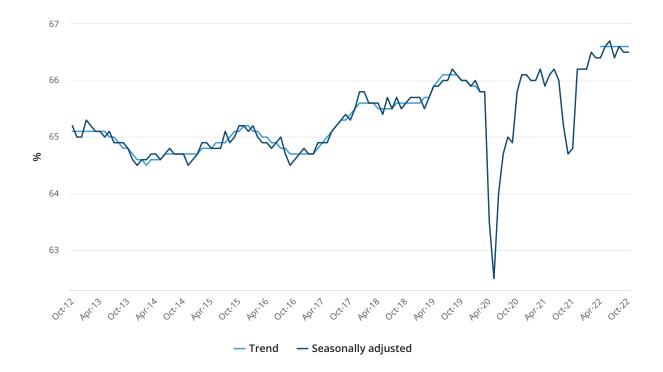


Participation

In trend terms, in October 2022, the participation rate:

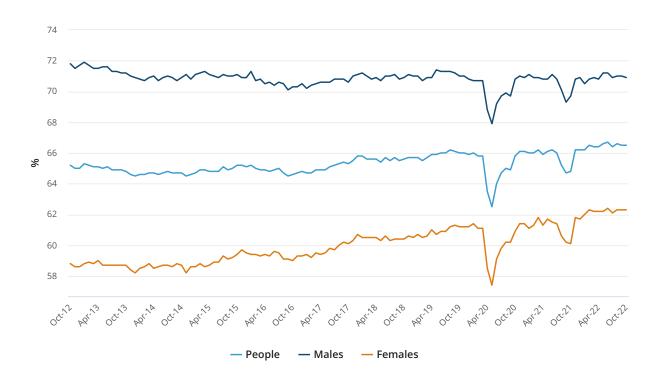
- remained at 66.6%.
- remained at 71.0% for men and increased to 62.4% for women.

Participation rate



Large month-to-month changes occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in multiple trend breaks. The ABS recommends caution when using trend estimates published in spreadsheets in this release for this period. Information on trend breaks can be found in <u>Labour Force, Australia methodology, October 2022 (/ methodologies/labour-force-australia-methodology/oct-2022)</u>.

Participation rate, Seasonally adjusted

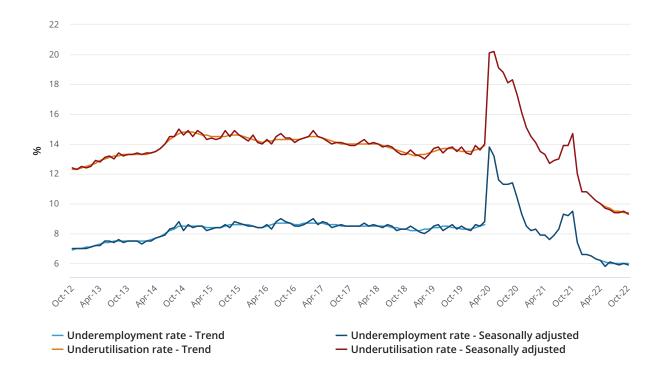


Underemployment

In trend terms, in October 2022:

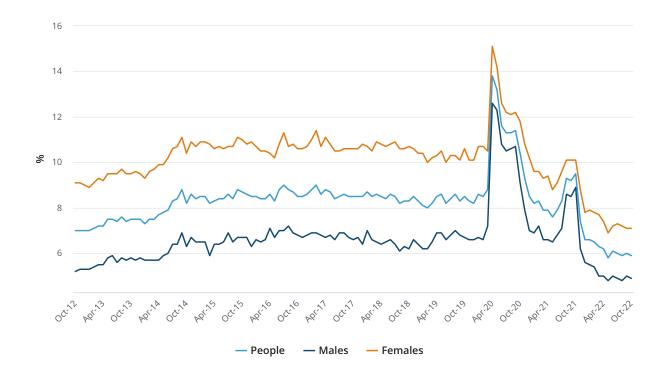
- underemployment rate remained at 6.0%.
- underutilisation rate remained at 9.4%.

Underemployment rate and underutilisation rate



Large month-to-month changes occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in multiple trend breaks. The ABS recommends caution when using trend estimates published in spreadsheets in this release for this period. A list of trend breaks can be found in Labour Force, Australia methodology, October 2022 (/ Methodologies/labour-force-australia-methodology/oct-2022).

Underemployment rate, Seasonally adjusted



States and Territories

October 2022 - Trend

| | New South Wales | Victoria | Queensland | South Australia | Western Australia | Tasmania | No Tei |
|---|-----------------------|-----------|------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------|-----------|
| Employed people | 4,312,100 | 3,520,200 | 2,771,700 | 895,600 | 1,464,800 | 268,100 | |
| Employed people - monthly change | 0.3% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.3% | 0.0% | 0.3% | |
| Employment to population ratio | 64.1% | 64.5% | 64.1% | 60.8% | 66.6% | 59.0% | |
| Employment to population ratio - monthly change | 0.1 pts | 0.0 pts | -0.1 pts | 0.2 pts | -0.1 pts | 0.1 pts | |

| | New South Wales | Victoria | Queensland | South Australia | Western Australia | Tasmania | Noı Teı |
|--|-----------------------|----------|------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------|------------|
| Unemployment rate | 3.2% | 3.5% | 3.4% | 4.0% | 3.5% | 4.2% | |
| Unemployment rate - monthly change | -0.1 pts | 0.0 pts | -0.1 pts | -0.1 pts | 0.0 pts | 0.0 pts | |
| Underemployment rate | 5.6% | 5.7% | 6.5% | 6.6% | 5.8% | 6.8% | |
| Underemployment rate - monthly change | -0.1 pts | 0.0 pts | 0.1 pts | 0.0 pts | 0.0 pts | 0.0 pts | |
| Participation rate | 66.2% | 66.8% | 66.3% | 63.3% | 69.0% | 61.6% | |
| Participation rate - monthly change | 0.1 pts | 0.0 pts | -0.2 pts | 0.1 pts | -0.1 pts | 0.1 pts | |

Rotation group analysis

Sample composition and rotation

The Labour Force Survey sample can be thought of as comprising eight sub-samples (rotation groups), with each sub-sample remaining in the survey for eight months, and one group "rotating out" each month and being replaced by a new group "rotating in". As seven-eighths of the sample are common from one month to the next, changes in the estimates reflect real changes in the labour market, rather than changes in the sample. The replacement sample is generally selected from the same geographic areas as the outgoing one, as part of a representative sampling approach.

The sample comprises three components:

- the matched common sample (people who responded in both the current month and previous month)
- the unmatched common sample (people who responded in the current month but who did not respond in the previous month, or vice versa)
- the incoming rotation group (replacing people who rotated out)

The matched common sample describes the change observed for the same respondents in the current and previous month, while the other two components reflect differences between the aggregate labour force status of different groups of people.

While the rotation groups are designed to be representative of the population, the outgoing

and incoming rotation groups will almost always have somewhat different characteristics, as they reflect different households and people. The design of the survey, including the weighting and estimation processes, ensures that these differences are generally relatively minor and do not affect the representativeness of the survey and its estimates. Monthly estimates are designed to be representative, regardless of the relative contribution of the three components of the sample.

The contributions of the three sample components to the original estimates of employed, unemployed and not in the labour force are in the Contribution from sample components to estimates spreadsheet.

Estimates for the incoming and outgoing rotation groups

Incoming and outgoing rotation groups

| | September outgoing rotation group | October incoming rotation group | October outgoing rotation group | October estimate (Original) |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Employment to population ratio | 66.4% | 66.1% | 62.9% | 64.1% |
| Full-time employment to population ratio | 46.1% | 46.2% | 43.5% | 44.7% |
| Unemployment rate | 2.7% | 3.0% | 3.5% | 3.2% |
| Participation rate | 68.2% | 68.2% | 65.2% | 66.3% |

States and Territories

In addition to analysis across the entire sample, the ABS also undertakes similar analysis for the responding sample in each state and territory each month, and highlights where there is a notable change for users to be aware of. For example, in October 2022, the incoming rotation group in Western Australia had a lower employment-to-population ratio and a lower participation rate than the group it replaced. As with any notable month-to-month movement of this nature in state and territory estimates, the ABS recommends exercising a degree of caution in interpreting short-term changes.

As for its reporting for the entire sample, where the ABS has not highlighted a notable incoming rotation group effect, any larger changes should therefore be considered to reflect a broader change across the sample.

Comparability with seasonally adjusted and trend data

The gross flows and rotation group data are in original terms only, and are included to provide additional information on the month-to-month movements. They have a considerable level of inherent sampling variability, which is specifically adjusted for in the trend and seasonally adjusted series. The trend data provides the best measure of the underlying behaviour of the labour market and is the focus of the commentary in this publication.

Contribution from sample components to estimates

▶ Download XLSX

[42.49 KB]

Data downloads

Labour Force Survey results are released in three stages.

- 1. Spreadsheets of the headline indicators are published in this release
- 2. Additional, more detailed spreadsheets and pivot tables are published in <u>Labour Force</u>, <u>Australia</u>, <u>Detailed</u> (/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/ <u>labour-force-australia-detailed/latest-release</u>) one week after this first release
- 3. Longitudinal labour force microdata are released in the ABS DataLab on a monthly basis, one day after the detailed release (see Microdata: Longitudinal Labour Force, Australia (/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/longitudinal-labour-force-australia))

See the <u>Survey output (/methodologies/labour-force-australia-methodology/oct-2022#survey-output)</u> section of Labour Force, Australia methodology for more information.

Labour Force status

Table 1. Labour force status by Sex, Australia - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

<u>▶</u> Download XLSX

[701.04 KB]

Table 4. Labour force status by Sex, New South Wales - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

▶ Download XLSX

[519.15 KB]

Table 5. Labour force status by Sex, Victoria - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

▶ Download XLSX

[518.34 KB]

Table 6. Labour force status by Sex, Queensland - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

▶ Download XLSX

[520.95 KB]

Table 7. Labour force status by Sex, South Australia - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

↓ Download XLSX

[514.34 KB]

Table 8. Labour force status by Sex, Western Australia - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

<u> ▶ Download XLSX</u>

[518.1 KB]

Table 9. Labour force status by Sex, Tasmania - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

▶ Download XLSX

[516.22 KB]

Table 10. Labour force status by Sex, Northern Territory - Trend and Original

▶ Download XLSX

[466.24 KB]

Table 10a. Labour force status by Sex, Northern Territory - Seasonally adjusted

<u> → Download XLSX</u>

[161.25 KB]

Table 11. Labour force status by Sex, Australian Capital Territory - Trend and Original

<u> ▶ Download XLSX</u>

[422.83 KB]

Table 11a. Labour force status by Sex, Australian Capital Territory - Seasonally adjusted

▶ Download XLSX

[161.47 KB]

Table 12. Labour force status by Sex, State and Territory - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

<u> ▶ Download XLSX</u>

[4.27 MB]

Table 12a. Labour force status by Sex, Territory - Seasonally adjusted

<u> → Download XLSX</u>

[275.98 KB]

Table 13. Labour force status for 15-24 year olds by Sex - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

<u> → Download XLSX</u>

[686.06 KB]

Table 15. Labour force status for 15-24 year olds by Educational attendance (full-time) and Sex

<u> → Download XLSX</u>

[769.35 KB]

Table 16. Labour force status for 15-24 year olds by State, Territory and Educational attendance (full-time)

▶ Download XLSX

[2.35 MB]

Table 17. Labour force status for 15-19 year olds by Sex - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

<u> → Download XLSX</u>

[581.72 KB]

Table 18. Labour force status for 15-64 year olds by Sex - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

<u> → Download XLSX</u>

[696.79 KB]

Hours worked

Table 19. Monthly hours worked in all jobs by Employed full-time, part-time and Sex and by State and Territory - Trend and Seasonally adjusted

<u> ▶ Download XLSX</u>

[254.85 KB]

Table 19a. Monthly hours worked in all jobs by Employed full-time, part-time and Sex and Territory - Seasonally adjusted

<u> → Download XLSX</u>

[60.2 KB]

Table 21. Quarterly hours worked in all jobs by Market and Non-market sector - Seasonally adjusted

<u> → Download XLSX</u> [56.99 KB]

EM2a - Employed persons who worked fewer hours than usual by hours actually worked in all jobs and sex, January 1991 onwards (pivot table)

<u> → Download XLSX</u>

[21.19 MB]

EM2b - Employed persons who worked fewer hours than usual by hours actually worked in all jobs, state and territory, January 1991 onwards (pivot table)

<u>→ Download XLSX</u>
[9.83 MB]

Underemployment and underutilisation

Table 22. Underutilised persons by Age and Sex - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

<u>**Download XLSX**</u> [4.77 MB]

Table 23. Underutilised persons by State and Territory and Sex - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

<u>→ Download XLSX</u> [5.82 MB]

Table 23a. Underutilised persons by Territory and Sex - Seasonally adjusted

<u>▶ Download XLSX</u>
[398.11 KB]

Table 24. Underutilised persons by Age and Sex (expanded analytical series)

<u>**Download XLSX**</u> [437.47 KB]

Table 25. Underutilised persons by State, Territory and Sex (expanded analytical series)

<u>▶ Download XLSX</u>
[362.11 KB]

Flows into and out of employment

GM1 - Labour force status and Gross changes (flows) by Age, Sex, State and Territory, February 1991 onwards

<u>→ Download XLSX</u> [96.62 MB]

All time series spreadsheets

All time series spreadsheets

<u>**Download ZIP**</u> [25.99 MB]

Data Explorer datasets

Caution: Data in the Data Explorer is currently released after the 11:30am release on the ABS website. Please check the time period when using Data Explorer.

For information on Data Explorer and how it works, see the <u>Data Explorer user guide (/ about/data-services/data-explorer/data-explorer-user-guide)</u>.

Labour force status by Sex, State and Territory (https://explore.data.abs.gov.au/vis? tm=labour%20force&pg=0&df[ds]=ABS_ABS_TOPICS&df[id]=LF&df[ag]=ABS&df[vs]=1.0.0&hc [Measure]=Labour%20Force&hc[ABS%20Topics]=LABOUR&pd=2021-01%2C&dq=M9.3.1599. 30%2B10%2B20.AUS.M&ly[cl]=TIME_PERIOD&ly[rw]=TSEST)_ - Number of people employed, unemployed and not in the labour force, monthly, February 1978 and onwards

Article archive

Understanding the labour force

<u>Historical charts from August 1966 to September 2022 (/articles/historical-charts-august-1966-september-2022) (September 2022)</u>

<u>Historical charts from August 1966 to August 2022 (/articles/historical-charts-august-1966-august-2022) (</u>August 2022)

<u>Historical charts from August 1966 to July 2022 (/articles/historical-charts-august-1966-july-2022) (July 2022)</u>

Historical charts from August 1966 to June 2022 (/articles/historical-charts-august-1966-june-2022) (June 2022)

<u>Historical charts from August 1966 to May 2022 (/articles/historical-charts-august-1966-may-2022)</u> (May 2022)

Historical charts from August 1966 to April 2022 (/articles/historical-charts-august-1966-april-2022) (April 2022)

Historical charts from 1966 (/articles/historical-charts-1966) (March 2022)

<u>Understanding full-time and part-time work (/articles/understanding-full-time-and-part-time-work) (January 2021)</u>

<u>Understanding differences between Labour Force employment statistics and Weekly Payroll</u>
<u>Jobs (/articles/understanding-differences-between-labour-force-employment-statistics-and-weekly-payroll-jobs) (April 2020)</u>

<u>Classifying people during the COVID-19 period (https://www.abs.gov.au/articles/classifying-people-labour-force-survey-during-covid-19-period) (March 2020)</u>

<u>Labour Force Explained (https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/labour+force+explained)</u> (September 2017)

<u>Understanding the Australian labour force using ABS statistics (https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/6202.0Main%20Features999Dec%202013)</u> (December 2013)

<u>Understanding full-time / part-time status in the Labour Force Survey (https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/6202.0Main%20Features4Sep%202013)</u>
(September 2013)

Employment level estimates versus employment to population ratio explained (https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/6202.0Main%20Features2Jan%202012) (January 2012)

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Previous catalogue number

This release previously used catalogue number 6202.0.

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<u>Labour Force, Australia methodology, October 2022</u>